From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Amazon Facial ID Software Could Have Potential Gender, Racial Bias, Study Indicates
Date: Friday, January 25, 2019 5:11:52 AM

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- Amazon.com Inc.'s facial recognition technology, which has been marketed to police departments and federal agencies, has more difficulties reading the gender of female faces and of darker-skinned people in photos when compared to similar services from IBM Corp. and Microsoft Corp., according to a new study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. In the study, Amazon's technology misclassified women as men 19 percent of the time and mistook darker-skinned women for men 31 percent of the time, renewing questions about the potential bias found in the company's technology. (The New York Times)

- Facebook Inc. is joining a group of businesses and foundations, including Kaiser Permanente and Genentech Inc., that will commit hundreds of

millions of dollars to expand affordable housing availability in the San Francisco Bay Area, following a similar pledge by Microsoft last week. The group, called the Partnership for the Bay's Future, will start two funds: one focused on protecting and building affordable homes, and a second focused on policy issues. (CNBC)

- Democratic leaders on the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter requesting more information from the Federal Communications Commission about the possible coordination between the agency and wireless carriers reagarding a nationwide 5G deployment order. Reps. Frank Pallone (N.J.) and Mike Doyle (Pa.) are concerned the FCC may have coordinated with carriers to file a rival appeal in court districts that would support the agency's order in September to clear local barriers for 5G deployment after several cities and counties challenged the move in the 9th Circuit, which is dominated by judges appointed by Democratic presidents. (The Verge)

Chart Review

Automation is set to hit the heartland the hardest - again
Axios

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

FRIDAY

GWU's Institute for International Economic Policy's "Artificial Intelligence: What Can We Learn from Other Countries' Approaches?" event	12:30 p.m.

Webinar: Has the Super Bowl become too politicized for advertisers?

Next **Wednesday, January 30 at 1 p.m. ET**, Morning Consult will host a webinar to help companies understand what happens when they get involved politically during the big game and beyond as well as which issues are most divisive for consumers in today's political climate. Register today →

General

Washington tech lobby picks new leader
David McCabe, Axios

Jason Oxman, who has for years led a lobbying group for payment technology companies, will be the new CEO of ITI, a major tech trade group.

Pentagon Probes Possible Conflict in Cloud Contract
John D. McKinnon and Kate O'Keeffe, The Wall Street Journal

The Defense Department is examining whether Amazon Web Services created a conflict of interest by hiring a former Pentagon employee who helped develop a cloud-computing procurement contract. AWS, a unit of Amazon.com Inc., is among the companies seeking the up to $10 billion contract to create and run much of the Pentagon's cloud-computing services.

Google asks U.S. Supreme Court to end Oracle copyright case
Jan Wolfe, Reuters

Alphabet Inc's Google on Thursday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a ruling that resurrected a billion-dollar copyright case brought by Oracle Corp that dates to 2010. Google urged the high court to rule its copying of Oracle's Java programming language to create the Android operating system was permissible under U.S. copyright law.

At Davos, World Leaders Are Calling for Tech Regulation. Alibaba's Jack Ma Has a Counterargument.
Claire Zillman, Fortune

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland this week, world leaders joined what seems to be growing chorus of calls to regulate technology, a field dominated by U.S.-based firms. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, for instance, said a focus of his country's chairmanship of the G20 this year would be to advocate for a set of international guidelines for how data is used.

Google Urged the U.S. to Limit Protection For Activist Workers
Josh Eidelson et al., Bloomberg

Google, whose employees have captured international attention in recent months through high-profile protests of workplace policies, has been quietly urging the U.S. government to narrow legal protection for workers organizing online.

Global Stocks Rise to End Tough Week; Dollar Slips: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

Equities in Europe and Asia advanced alongside U.S. index futures as technology shares continued rallying and investors sought to end a challenging week on an upbeat note. Gold and oil climbed, while the dollar slipped against its major peers except the yen.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

U.S. Patent Operations May Shut Down in Second Week of February
Susan Decker, Bloomberg

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office said it may have to cease patent operations in the second week of February if the partial government shutdown continues, though it has money for trademark work through mid-April.

How Time Warner Shareholders Lost M&A's Game of Thrones
Martin Peers, The Information

When big company mergers go south, it's usually the buyer who has regrets. But in the case of AT&T's $81 billion purchase of Time Warner, it is the sellers who are now likely to be feeling remorseful.

California's Public Advocates Office argues strongly against T-Mobile/Sprint merger
Matt Kapko, FierceWireless

Earlier this month, California's Public Advocates Office, a nonpartisan and publicly funded agency that advocates on behalf of California residents with respect to energy, water and communications regulations, strongly recommended a denial of T-Mobile's proposed merger with Sprint.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

15 Senators Call on FCC and FTC to Investigate How AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint Sold Phone Locations to Bounty Hunters
Joseph Cox, Motherboard

Earlier this month Motherboard revealed that AT&T, T-Mobile, and Sprint had been selling real-time location of customers' cell phones that ultimately ended up in the hands of bounty hunters and people unauthorized to handle the data. To verify this, Motherboard paid a bounty hunter source $300 to locate a T-Mobile phone, which successfully pinpointed the device to a specific part of Queens, New York.

Why Facebook, SpaceX and Dozens of Others Are Battling Over Internet Access From Space
Aaron Pressman, Fortune

The next billion people who get connected to the Internet may be looking to the heavens. That's where a race is on to provide online access from fleets of satellites, led by a who's who of tech and several deep-pocketed startups.

Verizon dethrones T-Mobile in wireless network ranking
Marrian Zhou, CNET

Verizon has given T-Mobile the boot and now leads all its main rivals in 4G, streaming and uploads, wireless tracking firm OpenSignal said Thursday.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Intel Projects Slower Revenue Growth This Year
Jay Greene, The Washington Post

Intel Corp. reported a 9% gain in revenue but cautioned that it expects slowing demand for data-center chips to continue well into 2019, a considerable challenge as the company's search for a new chief executive stretches into month eight.

We Followed YouTube's Recommendation Algorithm Down The Rabbit Hole
Caroline O'Donovan and Charlie Warzel, BuzzFeed News

How many clicks through YouTube's "Up Next" recommendations does it take to go from an anodyne PBS clip about the 116th United States Congress to an anti-immigrant video from a designated hate organization? Thanks to the site's recommendation algorithm, just nine.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Obama-era officials warn of shutdown's damage to national security
Jacqueline Thomsen, The Hill

A group of former Homeland Security officials on Thursday issued dire warnings on the partial government shutdown's effect on national security, saying the lapse in funding is likely putting the U.S. at risk. The panel, convened by House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and largely comprised of Obama-era officials, warned that the 34-day shutdown may have harmful effects that could last years.

'Businesses Will Not Be Able to Hide': Spy Satellites May Give Edge From Above
Cade Metz, The New York Times

In October, the Chinese province of Guangdong - the manufacturing center on the southern coast that drives 12 percent of the country's economy - stopped publishing a monthly report on the health of its local factories.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

The Facts About Facebook
Mark Zuckerberg, The Wall Street Journal

Facebook turns 15 next month. When I started Facebook, I wasn't trying to build a global company.

Amazon Can't Fix Facial Recognition
Cathy O'Neil, Bloomberg

A group of Amazon.com shareholders has added a new twist to the concept of corporate social responsibility, asking the company to stop selling its facial recognition service for purposes that might violate people's civil rights. In doing so, they have raised an important question: Could this be the way to curb the creepy use of new algorithms?

With cybersecurity threats looming, the government shutdown is putting America at risk

Monica Pal, TechCrunch

Putting political divisions and affiliations aside, the government partially shutting down for the third time over the last year is extremely worrisome, particularly when considering its impact on the nation's cybersecurity priorities. Unlike the government, our nation's enemies don't "shut down."

Privacy concerns collide with the public interest in data
Gillian Tett, Financial Times

Late last year Statistics Canada - the agency that collects government figures - launched an innovation: it asked the country's banks to supply "individual-level financial transactions data" for 500,000 customers to allow it to track economic trends.

Social networks put your privacy at risk, even when you don't have an account
Olivia Goldhill, Quartz

Following repeated scandals at Facebook in 2018, #DeleteFacebook briefly trended as users quit the site in protest of the social networks' questionable ethics and privacy violations. When it comes to protecting your own privacy though, quitting social media isn't enough.

Research Reports

Happy New Year 2019! Anatova is here!
Alexandre Mundo, McAfee

During our continuous hunt for new threats, we discovered a new ransomware family we call Anatova (based on the name of the ransom note). Anatova was discovered in a private peer-to-peer (p2p) network. After initial analysis, and making sure that our customers are protected, we decided to make this discovery public.

Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei And ZTE: Countering a Hostile Foreign Threat
Andy Keiser and Bryan Smith, National Security Institute at George Mason University

Both Huawei and ZTE have their origins in the Chinese state, remain integrated with the Chinese Communist Party, and are bound by Chinese law and policy to serve state security and economic interests.

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